

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0579/167505.02
Application No.: 09/934,071
Office Action Dated: June 15, 2004

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Accompanying the present Request for Continuing Examination (RCE) are amendments to the claims to place the application in condition for allowance. Specifically, claims 36-37, depending from claim 31, were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, but were rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Accordingly, to place the application in condition for allowance, claims 1-30 have been canceled herein without prejudice, and claim 31 has been amended herein to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 36. Claims 32-35 and 37-38 depend from claim 31, either directly or indirectly, and are believed allowable for the same reasons.

Similarly, new claim 41 has been added to correspond to the subject matter of claim 31 as amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 37. Claims 42-48 depend from claim 41 and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Claims 36-37 are appropriately canceled herein, and accordingly, claims 31-35 and 38-48 are believed to patentably define over the art of record.


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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 31-35 and 38-48 of the application are now in condition for allowance, having incorporated the allowable subject matter of claims 36 and 37 into independent claims 31 and 41, respectively. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

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